

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
  - a user authentication section that acquires ID information to identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performs user authentication based on said ID information;
  - an operation mode setting section that can selectively set, as an operation mode that sets a work environment for operation inputs, between a personal operation mode to permit each user to operate individually and a public operation mode to permit an indefinite number of users to operate;
  - a mode switching section that, when a user is authenticated in said user authentication section, switches said operation mode from said public operation mode into said personal operation mode for the authenticated user; [[and]]
    - a personal information processing section that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information acquired by the user authentication section,
    - wherein, in a personal operation mode, an operation screen is displayed for a user whose personal information has been processed by the personal information processing section, [[and]]
      - wherein the operation screen displays information related to the personal information processing section; and
        - a display section for performing a screen display, and
        - wherein when a user has been away from the image processing apparatus for a predetermined time or more, while being in the personal operation mode, the mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode and displays on the display section, a screen representation to accept operation inputs by an indefinite number of users.

2. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode based on a prescribed condition with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

3. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein when ID information is not acquired for a period of time longer than a predetermined time in said user authentication section, said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

4. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a human body detection section that detects a user located in the vicinity of said image processing apparatus, wherein when a human body has not been detected by said human body detection section for a period of time longer than a predetermined time, said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

5. (Original) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a setting information acquisition section that acquires setting information associated with each user, wherein said operation mode setting section sets said personal operation mode based on said setting information associated with the user authenticated in said user authentication section.

6. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said ID information cooperates with login IDs in a network that can be connected to said image processing apparatus, wherein said personal information processing section performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information existing on said network based on said ID information.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program that

performs the management of personal information in an image processing apparatus shared by a plurality of users, which when executed, causes a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

a user authentication step that acquires ID information to identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performing user authentication based on said ID information[[:]];

an operation mode setting step that selectively sets, as an operation mode that sets a work environment for operation inputs, between a personal operation mode to permit each user to operate individually and a public operation mode to permit an indefinite number of users to operate;

a mode switching step that, when a user is authenticated in said user authentication step, switches said operation mode from said public operation mode into said personal operation mode for the authenticated user; [[and]]

a personal information processing step that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information acquired by the user authentication section,

wherein, in a personal operation mode, an operation screen is displayed for a user whose personal information has been processed by the personal information processing step, [[and]]

wherein the operation screen displays information related to the personal information processing step; and

a displaying step that performs a screen display, and

wherein when a user has been away from the image processing apparatus for a predetermined time or more, while being in the personal operation mode, the mode switching section switches said operation mode from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode and displays a screen representation to accept operation inputs by an indefinite number of users.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein in said mode switching step, said operation mode is switched from said

personal operation mode into said public operation mode based on a prescribed condition with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein in said mode switching step, when ID information is not acquired for a period of time longer than a predetermined time in said user authentication step, said operation mode is switched from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state condition that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, further comprising a human body detection step for detecting a user located in the vicinity of said image processing apparatus, wherein in said mode switching step, when a human body has not been detected in said human body detection step for a period of time longer than a predetermined time, said operation mode is switched from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, further comprising a setting information acquisition step that acquires setting information associated with each user, wherein in said operation mode setting step, said personal operation mode is set based on said setting information associated with the user authenticated in said user authentication step.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said ID information cooperates with login IDs in a network that can be connected to said image processing apparatus, wherein said personal information processing

step performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information existing on said network based on said ID information.

13 - 16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the personal information processing section comprises an urgent information processing section that acquires one or more communications to the user that are characterized as urgent, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the urgent information processing section.

18. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the personal information processing section comprises a schedule information processing section that acquires one or more schedules associated with the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the schedule information processing section.

19. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the personal information processing section comprises a time record information processing section that manages arrival and departure information of one or more employees in a time record management server in cooperation with the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the time record information processing section.

20. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the personal information processing section comprises an unread information processing section that acquires one or more communications that have been characterized as unread with the authentication of the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the unread information processing section.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the personal information processing step comprises an urgent information

processing step that acquires one or more communications to the user that are characterized as urgent, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the urgent information processing section.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the personal information processing section step comprises a schedule information processing step that acquires one or more schedules associated with the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the schedule information processing section.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the personal information processing step comprises a time record information processing step that manages arrival and departure information of one or more employees in a time record management server in cooperation with the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the time record information processing section.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium storing computer program instructions in the form of a personal information management program, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the personal information processing step comprises an unread information processing step that acquires one or more communications that have been characterized as unread with the authentication of the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the unread information processing section.